

Attorney Docket No. P13286-US2

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**1.) Claim Amendments**

The Applicants have amended claims 4, 7, 10, 13-15, 20, 21, and 28; claims 1-3, 11, 12, 16-19, and 25-27 have been canceled; and claims 29-31 have been added. Accordingly, claims 4-10, 13-15, 20-24, and 28-31 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Specification Amendments

The Applicants noted and corrected a typographical error in the paragraph on page 3, lines 7-8. No new matter has been added. Approval of the amendment to the specification is respectfully requested.

3.) Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraphs 1-2 of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 4, 13, and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants have rewritten claims 4, 13, and 14 in this manner. Therefore, the allowance of claims 4, 13, and 14 is respectfully requested.

4.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In paragraphs 3-4 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 7-8, 20 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Wolf, "Key Frame Selection by Motion Analysis" (Wolf). The Applicants assume that the Examiner meant claims 1-3 since Examiner stated in paragraph 1 that claim 4 recited allowable subject matter. The Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 25. Claims 7-8 and 20 have been amended to better distinguish the claimed invention from Wolf. The Examiner's consideration of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4, and claim 8 depends from claim 7. Therefore, the allowance of claims 7-8 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 20 has been amended to recite a system for preprocessing a video sequence to produce a set of views suitable for Structure from Motion processing. The system comprises a source for a sequence of video frames; a storage medium; and a preprocessor configured to generate a set of views suitable for Structure from Motion processing by determining a motion estimation between the frames in the video sequence, identifying a frame as redundant if the motion estimation yields a final correlation coefficient above a predetermined threshold, and deleting any frames that are identified as redundant.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action (in the reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter), the Examiner stated that no prior art anticipates or suggests a method of preprocessing a video sequence that includes identifying a frame as redundant if the motion estimation yields a final correlation coefficient above a predetermined threshold. Amended claim 20 is a system claim corresponding to this allowable subject matter. Therefore, the allowance of amended claim 20 is respectfully requested.

5.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In paragraph 11 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimizu, et al. (US 6,512,537). The Applicants have canceled claims 16-19.

6.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In paragraphs 17-18 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 5-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Lee, et al. (US 6,400,831). However, claims 5-6 depend from amended and allowable claim 4, and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 4. Therefore, the allowance of claims 5-6 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 22 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Ratakonda (US 5,995,095). Claim 9 depends from claim 7, which has been amended to depend from amended and allowable claim 4. Thus, claim 9 recites further limitations in combination with the novel

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elements of claims 4 and 7. Therefore, the allowance of claim 9 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 26 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Fukunaga, et al. (US 6,282,240). The Applicants have canceled claims 11-12. Claim 10 has been amended to depend from amended and allowable claim 4. Thus, claim 10 recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 4. Therefore, the allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 32 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Fukunaga and further in view of the Goodman article "Ready for action: five video-capture boards that bring motion video to your PC" ("Goodman"). Claim 15 has been amended to depend from amended and allowable claim 13. Thus, claim 15 recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 13. Therefore, the allowance of claim 15 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 36 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Apple Computer Inc.'s Apple Macintosh Family Hardware Reference ("the Macintosh hardware reference"). However, claims 21-23 depend from amended claim 20. As discussed above, claim 20 has been amended to recite the features that the Examiner stated were allowable in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, the allowance of claims 21-23 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 42 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia ("Wikipedia"). However, claim 24 depends from amended claim 20. As discussed above, claim 20 has been amended to recite the features that the Examiner stated were allowable in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, the allowance of claim 24 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 46 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 26-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wolf in view of Shimizu. The Applicants have canceled claims 26-27. Claim 28 depends from base claim 20, and as discussed

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above, claim 20 has been amended to recite the features that the Examiner stated were allowable in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, the allowance of claim 28 is respectfully requested.

7.) New Claims

The Applicants have added claims 29-31 and respectfully request their allowance. Claim 29 is a claim for a preprocessor that includes the features that the Examiner stated were allowable in paragraph 2 of the Office Action. Therefore, the allowance of claim 29 is respectfully requested.

Claim 30 recites a method of preprocessing a sequence of video frames, in which each frame is sequentially analyzed to determine whether each frame differs from the previous adjacent frame by a difference that exceeds a predetermined threshold amount. Each analyzed frame that differs from the previous adjacent frame by a difference that exceeds the predetermined threshold amount is stored. Frames that differ from the previous adjacent frame by an amount less than the predetermined threshold amount are deleted until a calculated total difference exceeds the predetermined threshold amount. The calculated total difference is the sum of the differences between each deleted frame and the deleted frame's previous adjacent frame. The method stores the analyzed frame for which the total difference exceeds the predetermined threshold amount, and then repeats the process until the entire video sequence has been analyzed, and a decimated subset of frames has been stored.

The Applicants' reading of the prior art has revealed no disclosure or suggestion of the method recited in claim 30. Basis for claim 30 is found in the originally filed specification on page 10, lines 8-23. Therefore, the allowance of claim 30 is respectfully requested.

Claim 31 is a claim for a preprocessor that corresponds to method claim 30. Therefore, the allowance of claim 31 is respectfully requested.

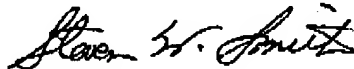
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 4-10, 13-15, 20-24, and 28-31.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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